

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PBOR, TU, IZ, IR, (KOCH, EDWARD L.)

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN KURDISH SITUATION

REF: ANKARA 5191

1. CONGRESSMAN KOCH INSERTED IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF
MAY 5 STATEMENT WHICH CRITICIZED FORD ADMINISTRATION'S ROLE
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IN KURDISH REBELLION IN IRAQ AND INCLUDED EXTRACTS FROM
PIKE COMMITTEE REPORT.

2. KOCH STATED INTER ALIA: BEGIN QUOTE: A. THE CRUCIAL
ELEMENT IN THIS REPORT IS THAT THE KURDS WOULD PROBABLY NOT
HAVE INITIATED AND CONTINUED AN ARMED REVOLT AGAINST THE
IRAQI GOVERNMENT IF THE KURDISH LEADER, GEN. MUSTAFFA

BARZANI, HAD NOT BEEN ASSURED OF U.S. SUPPORT. BARZANI DID NOT TRUST IRAN'S PLEDGE OF SUPPORT BECAUSE HE CORRECTLY BELIEVED THAT SUCH SUPPORT WOULD BE WITHDRAWN AT ANY TIME CONVENIENT TO THE SHAH. BARZANI, INSTEAD, PLACED HIS FAITH IN THE UNITED STATES. SADLY, THE UNITED STATES BETRAYED HIM AND HIS PEOPLE. END QUOTE.

B. BEGIN QUOTE: THE UNITED STATES SHOULD PURSUE DIPLO-MATIC EFFORTS TO INSURE THAT THE RIGHTS OF KURDS ARE NOT BEING VIOLATED, WHETHER THOSE RIGHTS ARE THE BASIC ONES OF LIFE&LIBERTY OR THE RIGHT TO SOME GUARANTEE OF AUTON-OMY. AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CONDITION OF CURDISH HUMAN RIGHTS BOTH IN IRAN AND IRAQ SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. IN ADDITION, THE UNITED STATES SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO HELP KURDISH REFUGEES. END QUOTE.

3. ON JULY 7 KOCH AND 20 OTHER CONGRESSMEN, INCLUDING FRASER, HARRINGTON, LAGOMARSINO, MEYNER, AND SOLARZ OF HIRC, SENT LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT (WHICH WAS RELEASED TO PRESS BY KOCH'S OFFICE) CRITICAL LF U. S. AND IRANIAN IN-VOLVEMENT IN KURDISH IRAQI DISPUTE.

4. CONGRESSIONAL LETTER CONTAINED FOLLOWING REQUESTS:
BEGIN QUOTE: THE UNITED STATES HAS A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO THE KURDISH PEOPLE.
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THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF KURDISH REFUGEES IN IRAN, AND THOUSANDS MORE IN CAMPS IN IRAQ. AS A TEMPORARY REMEDY, WE URGE THAT THE UNITED STATES VOICE ITS CONCERN FOR THE PLIGHT OF THE KURDS AND ASK FOR AN INVESTIGATION BY THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ON THE CONDITION OF KURDS IN IRAQ; AND ALSO TAKE THE LEAD IN PROVIDING REFUGEE ASSISTANCE TO THEM.

WE ALSO URGE THAT EFFORTS BE MADE TO PROVIDE THIS DISTINCT ETHNIC MINORITY SOME MEASURE OF TRUE CULTURAL AUTONOMY PERMITTING THEM SPECIAL STATUS WITHIN IRAQ. END QUOTE.

5. TURKEY IS NOT MENTIONED IN MAY 5 KOCH STATEMENT, LETTER OR SUBSEQUENT PRESS RELEASE.

6. COPIES OF STATEMENT, LETTER, AND PRESS RELEASE WILL BE POUCHED TO ANKARA, BAGHDAD, AND TEHRAN. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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